CA2 ALRPW13
85P76
c. 2

LEGISLATURE LIBRARY
SEP 1 1 1985
EDMONTON

Alberta
RECREATION AND PARKS

1984 Public Opinion Survey

on Recreation

A SYNOPSIS OF THE FINAL RESULTS

Alberta Recreation and Parks
Recreation Development Division
Planning Support Branch
July 1985

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

1.0 Introduction and Methodology 1

2.0 Survey Results

2.1 Participation in Leisure Activities 2

2.1.1. Participation in Leisure Activities - Respondents' Households 2

2.1.2. Respondent Participation in Outdoor and Sports Activities 8

2.2 Activities Started in Past Year 10

2.3 Activities Discontinued in the Previous Year 15

2.4 Membership in Private Clubs 20

2.5 Volunteer Participation 22

2.6 Respondents' Opinions 23

2.7 Socio-Economic and Demographic Information about Respondents and Households 27

2.7.1. Residence Characteristics 27

2.7.2. Household Characteristics 30

2.7.3. Socio-Demographic Characteristics 33

2.8 Respondents' Comments 36

LIST OF TABLES

Table Number		Page
1.	Proportion of Households and Household Members Participating in Social, Creative and Cultural Activities and Estimated Population Participation Figures	3
2.	Proportion of Households and Household Members Participating in Outdoor and Sports Activities and Estimated Population Participation Figures	5
3.	Other Activities in Which Household Members Participated	7
4.	Respondent Participation in Selected Outdoor and Sports Activities	8
5.	Proportion of Respondents Participating in Outdoor and Sports Activities	9
6.	Proportions of Respondents Starting and Not Starting a New Activity in the Previous Year	10
7.	Proportion of Respondents Starting Specific Leisure Activities in the Previous Year	11
8.	Other Reasons Specified For Starting or Re-Starting to Participate in an Activity	14

9. Respondents' Annual Expenditures on Activity Started in the Past Year 14

10. Proportion of Respondents Stopping Participation In a Leisure Activity During The Past Year..... 15

11. Proportion of Respondents Stopping Participation in Specific Leisure Activities in the Previous Year..... 16

12. Other Reasons For Ceasing Participation In An Activity..... 19

13. Proportion of Respondents Indicating Membership and No Membership in a Private Club 20

14. Proportion of Respondents Belonging to a Specific Number of Private Clubs 20

15. Proportion of Respondents Reporting Various Annual Costs for Private Club Memberships 21

16. Proportion of Respondents Reporting Participation or Non Participation in Volunteer Work..... 22

17. Time Spent Doing Volunteer Work in An Average Week ... 22

18. Respondents' Opinions About Alberta's Amateur Athletes Winning Medals in Competitions 23

19. Respondents' Attitudes About Competition in Organized Sports for Children 24

20. Proportions of Respondents Visiting/Not Visting Alberta Provincial Parks in the Past Three Years 24

21. Opinions About the Role of Alberta Recreation and Parks 25

22. Respondents' Opinions About Activities and Services in Provincial Parks 26

23. Proportions of Respondents Living In Urban or Rural Locations 27

24. Location of Respondent Households: Provincial Regions 28

25. Length of Residence in Alberta 29

26. Respondents' Type of Household 30

27. Other Types of Households 30

28. Number of Household Members 31

29. Number and Age of Person(s) in Respondents' Households 32

30. Respondents' Sex 33

31. Respondents' Age Category 33

32. Respondents' Marital Status 34

33. Respondents' Educational Level 34

34. Other Levels of Education 35

35. Number of Income Earners in Respondents' Household ... 35

36. Total Household Income 36

37. Respondents' Comments 37

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure — Page

1. Importance of Reasons For Starting Participation in Leisure Activities 13

2. Importance of Reasons For Ceasing Participation in Leisure Activities 18

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

The 1984 Public Opinion Survey on Recreation is the fourth study conducted by Alberta Recreation and Parks to collect current information on the leisure behaviour of Albertans. This information provides a data base for use in assessment of longitudinal trends, program monitoring, forecasting future demands, and the development of departmental policy.

One objective of the 1984 Public Opinion Survey on Recreation was to facilitate the assessment of trends or changes in the recreation patterns of Albertans through comparisons with data from the 1981 Public Opinion Survey on Recreation. Accordingly, the 1984 survey instrument and survey administration procedures were similar in format to the 1981 survey in order to allow for comparison of findings from the two studies.

The survey instrument was designed and prepared by the Planning Support Branch, Recreation Development Division. The data collection was coordinated by Brenda Dale, Recreation Planner and Janet Fletcher, Research Assistant.

The sample frame was drawn from Alberta Government Telephones and Edmonton Telephones billing lists. A sample of 8,031 Alberta households was selected from this frame using a simple random sample technique. The sampling units consisted of the heads (or other representatives) of Alberta households.

The sampling proportions were as follows: 24.99% Edmonton, 24.76% Calgary and 50.25% for the rest of the province. An attempt was made to over-sample the regions outside of the major urban centres of Edmonton and Calgary to obtain a larger number of responses from these "non-urban" areas.

The data were gathered between October, 1984 and January, 1985, using a mail-out procedure. Questionnaires were mailed to the household sample (N= 8,031) on October 31, 1984 (First Wave mailout). Households which had not

responded within two weeks were sent a post-card reminder on November 14, 1984. A second mail-out was conducted on December 7, 1984, in which another questionnaire was forwarded to those who still had not responded to the survey (Second Wave mailout). The final acceptance date for receipt of the questionnaires by Alberta Recreation and Parks was January 31, 1985. Deceased persons,those with no forwarding address, and those who declined to complete the questionnaire were deleted from the mailing list, resulting in an effective sample size of 7,247 households.

The first wave returns were from 2,614 households or 36 percent of the effective sample size. The second mailing yielded a further 1,335 responses, for a net response rate of 54.5 percent.

Summary
Sampling Units - Alberta Heads of Households
Sampling Frame - Alberta Residential Telephone listings as of October 1984.
Sample Size - 8031
Undeliverable - 784
Effective Sample Size - 7247
First Wave Returns - 2614
Second Wave Returns - 1335
Response Rate - 54.5

2.0 SURVEY RESULTS

2.1 Participation in Leisure Activities

2.1.1. Participation in Leisure Activities - Respondents' Households

Section 1B, Question 1 - What social, creative and cultural activities did you or members of your household participate in?

Table 1 indicates the number and proportion of households and the number of household members participating at least once in any activity over the past twelve months. In addition, the table provides an estimate of the number of

Table 1

Proportion of Households and Household Members Participating in Social, Creative and Cultural Activities and Estimated Population Participation Figures

Leisure Activities (Rank-Ordered)	Participating Households N	Participating Households %	Participating Households Members N	Estimated Participation by Albertans* N	Rate Per Thousand Population* N
1. Visiting Friends	3551	90.5	10497	1,981,395	841
2. Watching T.V.	3527	89.9	10308	1,956,495	830
3. Radio, Records	3543	90.3	10234	1,943,006	824
4. Dining Out	3389	86.4	9673	1,781,525	756
5. Playing Cards, Games	3227	82.3	8630	1,580,804	671
6. Reading	3183	81.2	8179	1,468,238	623
7. Driving for Pleasure	3067	78.3	7415	1,350,657	573
8. Movies	2920	74.4	7470	1,346,631	571
9. Sport Spectator	2797	71.3	6905	1,221,541	518
10. Gardening	2919	74.5	6674	1,174,107	498
11. Crafts, Hobbies	2872	73.2	6270	1,144,425	486
12. Clubs, Groups	2760	70.4	6407	1,066,727	453
13. Library Visits	2725	69.5	6230	1,063,083	451
14. Social Dance	2375	60.6	5431	1,009,789	428
15. Museum Visits	2441	62.3	5819	999,950	424
16. Video Games	2042	52.1	4701	858,049	364
17. Home Improvements	2138	54.5	4286	720,879	306
18. Arts (Drama, Music)	1774	45.2	3717	700,195	297
19. Education Courses	2271	57.9	4235	687,110	292
20. Volunteering	2138	54.5	3913	619,145	263
21. Bingo	1051	26.8	1776	387,988	165

*NOTE: The calculation procedures for estimating participation by Albertans and rate per thousand population can be obtained from the Planning Support Branch of Alberta Recreation and Parks.

Albertans who participated in each activity in the past year. In the final column of Table 1, the estimated participation rate per thousand of the population is reported. The leisure activities listed in Table 1 are rank-ordered according to the estimated participation by Albertans. Please note that the percentage figures in the tables reflect the percentage of the total sample (n = 3949) unless otherwise specified.

- o The ten activities in which participation is highest are as follows: visiting friends, watching T.V., listening to the radio and records, dining out, playing cards and board games, reading, driving for pleasure, going to movies, attending sports events as a spectator, and gardening.

Section 1B, Question 2 - What outdoor or sports activities did you or the members of your household participate in?

Table 2 indicates the number and proportion of households and the number of household members participating at least once in any given activity over the past twelve months. In addition, the table provides an estimate of the number of Albertans who participated in these activities in the past year. In the final column of Table 2, the estimated rate per thousand of the population is reported. The leisure activities in Table 2 are rank-ordered according to their estimated participation by Albertans.

Table 2

Proportion of Households and Household Members Participating in Outdoor and Sports Activities and Estimated Population Participation Figures

Leisure Activities (Rank-Ordered)	Participating Households N	Participating Households %	Participating Household Members N	Estimated* Participation by Albertans N	Rate Per* Thousand Population N
1. Walking	3317	84.5	8685	1,582,966	672
2. Picnicking	2744	69.9	8136	1,433,033	608
3. Swimming	2998	76.4	7932	1,388,117	589
4. Camping	2241	57.1	6152	1,079,272	458
5. Bicycling	2464	62.8	5878	1,079,059	458
6. Ice Skating	2080	53.0	4995	899,279	382
7. Fishing	2034	51.8	4391	821,398	349
8. Sledding	1557	39.7	4129	688,300	292
9. Motor Boating	1448	36.9	3658	666,299	283
10. Softball/Baseball	1705	43.5	3313	576,360	245
11. Hiking	1492	38.0	3525	554,791	235
12. Jogging	1758	44.8	3278	531,688	226
13. Downhill Skiing	1403	35.8	2737	490,367	208
14. Bowling	1135	28.9	2364	474,498	201
15. Fitness, Aerobics	1725	44.0	2549	420,659	179
16. Body Building, Weights	1444	36.8	2278	403,167	171
17. Golf	1545	39.4	2455	400,935	170
18. Horse Riding	1062	27.1	2106	384,041	163
19. Hockey	1083	27.6	1721	351,124	149
20. Snowmobiling	756	19.3	1823	347,772	148
21. Table Tennis	1014	25.8	2047	344,280	146
22. Water Skiing	950	24.2	1745	340,649	145
23. Volleyball	1054	26.9	1713	312,549	133

Table 2 (Continued)

Leisure Activities (Rank-Ordered)	Participating Households N	Participating Households %	Participating Household Members N	Estimated* Participation by Albertans N	Rate Per* Thousand Population N
24. Canoeing, Kayaking	982	25.0	1996	310,647	132
25. Tennis	987	25.2	1690	305,957	130
26. Cross-Country Skiing	1145	29.2	2329	304,168	129
27. Badminton	842	21.5	1592	286,580	122
28. Racquetball	1014	25.8	1513	258,869	110
29. Motorcycling, Trail Biking	777	19.8	1408	258,764	110
30. Hunting	872	22.2	1242	251,057	107
31. Track and Field	843	21.5	1490	246,293	105
32. Gymnastics	727	18.5	1157	234,129	99
33. Soccer	809	20.6	1404	231,702	98
34. Curling	906	23.1	1400	230,533	98
35. Football	730	18.6	1125	212,281	90
36. Rollerskating	941	24.0	1757	209,402	89
37. Basketball	713	18.2	1110	209,168	89
38. Backpacking	492	12.5	835	184,319	78
39. Mountain Climbing	470	12.0	952	166,236	71
40. Shooting (Target)	635	16.2	937	165,550	70
41. Sailing	369	9.4	635	100,679	43
42. Squash	396	10.1	525	96,229	41
43. Orienteering	397	10.1	604	88,833	38
44. River Rafting	284	7.2	459	88,795	38
45. Archery	327	8.3	459	74,351	32
46. Windsurfing	305	7.8	431	58,713	25
47. Judo	203	5.2	263	44,035	19
48. Rugby	99	2.5	145	38,940	17
49. Ringette	79	2.0	125	20,392	9
50. BMX Racing	105	2.7	137	18,169	8

*Note: The calculation procedures for estimating participation by Albertans and rate per thousand population can be obtained from the Planning Support Branch of Alberta Recreation and Parks.

- o The ten activities in which participation is highest are as follows: walking for pleasure, picnicking, swimming, camping, bicycling, ice skating, fishing, sledding, motor boating and softball/baseball.

Question 2 (Section 13) also provided respondents with the opportunity to specify additional activities not listed in the questionnaire in which their household members participated in over the previous year. The reported activities are listed in Table 3. The activities are rank-ordered according to the frequency of mention by the household respondents.

Table 3

Other Activities
in Which Household Members Participated

Leisure Activities (Ranked)	Frequency Total N	% of Sample
1. Other Out-Of Home Activities	87	2.2
2. Aerial Activities	37	.9
3. Lawn Activities	33	.8
4. Field, Floor Hockey	26	.7
5. Water Sports	29	.7
6. Dance, Ballet, Jazz	18	.5
7. Other In-Home Activities	19	.5
8. ATV - 4 Wheel Driving	15	.4
9. Table Games	16	.4
10. Nature Walks	12	.3
11. Travel, Vacation	12	.3
12. Broomball, Ringette	7	.2
13. Performing Arts	6	.2
14. Rodeo	6	.2
15. Creative Activities	4	.1
16. Photography	5	.1
17. Coaching	3	.1
18. Lacrosse	3	.1
19. Martial Arts	3	.1
20. Cottaging	1	.0

2.1.2. Respondent Participation in Outdoor and Sports Activities

Section 2, Question 2 - Did you participate in any outdoor and sport activities during the past twelve months?

Table 4

Respondent Participation in Selected Outdoor and Sports Activities

Participation	Frequency N	%
Yes	3543	90.4
No	295	7.5
No Response	82	2.1
Total	3920	100.0

Respondents who indicated participation in outdoor and sports activities were requested to identify up to three activities in which they participated MOST OFTEN in the previous year and indicate the number of times that they participated in each of the outdoor sports activities which they specified. These activities are listed in Table 5, and are rank-ordered according to the frequency with which they were mentioned by the participating respondents.

Table 5

Proportion of Respondents Participating in
Outdoor and Sports Activities

Outdoor Sports Activities (Ranked)	N	Proportion of Active Respondents %	Proportion of Total Sample %
1. Walking For Pleasure	1186	33.6	30.2
2. Swimming	789	22.3	20.1
3. Overnight Camping	654	18.5	16.7
4. Fishing	640	18.1	16.3
5. Golf	639	18.1	16.3
6. Bicycling	628	17.8	16.0
7. Aerobics/Fitness	423	12.0	10.8
8. Softball, Baseball	389	11.0	9.9
9. Hunting	307	8.7	7.8
10. Curling	297	8.4	7.6
11. Downhill Skiing	296	8.4	7.5
12. Jogging, Running	291	8.2	7.4
13. Picnicking	280	7.9	7.1
14. Cross-Country Skiing	235	6.6	6.0
15. Ice Hockey	235	6.6	6.0
16. Weight Lifting, Body Building	213	6.0	5.4
17. Bowling, Lawn Bowling	210	5.9	5.3
18. Racquetball	193	5.5	4.9
19. Motor, Trail Biking	170	4.8	4.3
20. Ice Skating	167	4.7	4.3
21. Day Hiking	167	4.7	4.3
22. Horseback, Trail Riding	148	4.2	3.8
23. Motor Boating	142	4.0	3.6
24. Tennis	143	4.0	3.6
25. Snowmobiling	116	3.3	3.0
26. Volleyball	99	2.8	2.5
27. Waterskiing	96	2.7	2.4

Note: This listing may be biased toward male activity preferences, since male respondents accounted for 64.7 percent of the survey sample.

Table 5

Proportion of Respondents Participating in Outdoor and Sports Activities

Outdoor Sports Activities (Ranked)	N	Proportion of Active Respondents %	Proportion of Total Sample %
28. Canoeing, Kayaking	80	2.3	2.0
29. Squash	79	2.2	2.0
30. Shooting	72	2.0	1.8
31. Soccer	69	2.0	1.8
32. Badminton	52	1.5	1.3
33. Sailing	48	1.4	1.2
34. Table Tennis	49	1.4	1.2
35. Basketball	44	1.2	1.1
36. Football	38	1.1	1.0

2.2 Activities Started in Past Year

Section 2, Question 3(a) - Is there any leisure time activity that you have started or re-started to participate in regularly over the last twelve months?

Table 6

Proportions of Respondents Starting and Not Starting a New Activity in the Previous Year

Started An Activity	Frequency N	%
Yes	1728	44.1
No	1895	48.3
No response	298	7.6
Total	3921	100.0

The specific activities started in the previous twelve months and the proportions of respondents who started each of the activities are summarized in Table 7. The column of percentage figures reports participants in each activity as a proportion of the sub-sample who had actually started a new activity (n=1728). The activities are rank-ordered according to the proportion of the sub-sample starting a new activity in the past year.

Table 7

Proportion of Respondents Starting Specific Leisure Activities in the Previous Year

	Leisure Activities (Ranked)	N	Proportion of Sample Starting a New Activity %
1.	Physical Fitness, Aerobics	190	11.0
2.	Swimming	105	6.1
3.	Walking For Pleasure	91	5.3
4.	Bicycling	89	5.2
5.	Golf	80	4.6
6.	Body-Building, Weight Lifting	79	4.6
7.	Racquetball, Squash	74	4.3
8.	Bowling	66	3.8
9.	Creative Activities	54	3.1
10.	Jogging, Running	54	3.1
11.	Curling	51	3.0
12.	Ice Hockey	52	3.0
13.	Downhill Skiing	45	2.6
14.	Handicrafts	42	2.4
15.	Baseball	37	2.1
16.	Camping	37	2.1
17.	Fishing	35	2.0
18.	Hobbies	32	1.9
19.	Cross-Country Skiing	29	1.7
20.	Other Out-Of-Home Activities	29	1.7
21.	Hiking	27	1.6
22.	Tennis	28	1.6
23.	Water Sports	27	1.6
24.	Hunting, Shooting	26	1.5
25.	Skating	25	1.4
26.	Volleyball	25	1.4
27.	Horse Riding, Racing	25	1.4
28.	Dance, Ballet, Jazz	20	1.2
29.	Board Games	19	1.1

Section 2, Question 3(b) - Based on the activity you started, how important are each of the eighteen reasons listed for participation to you?

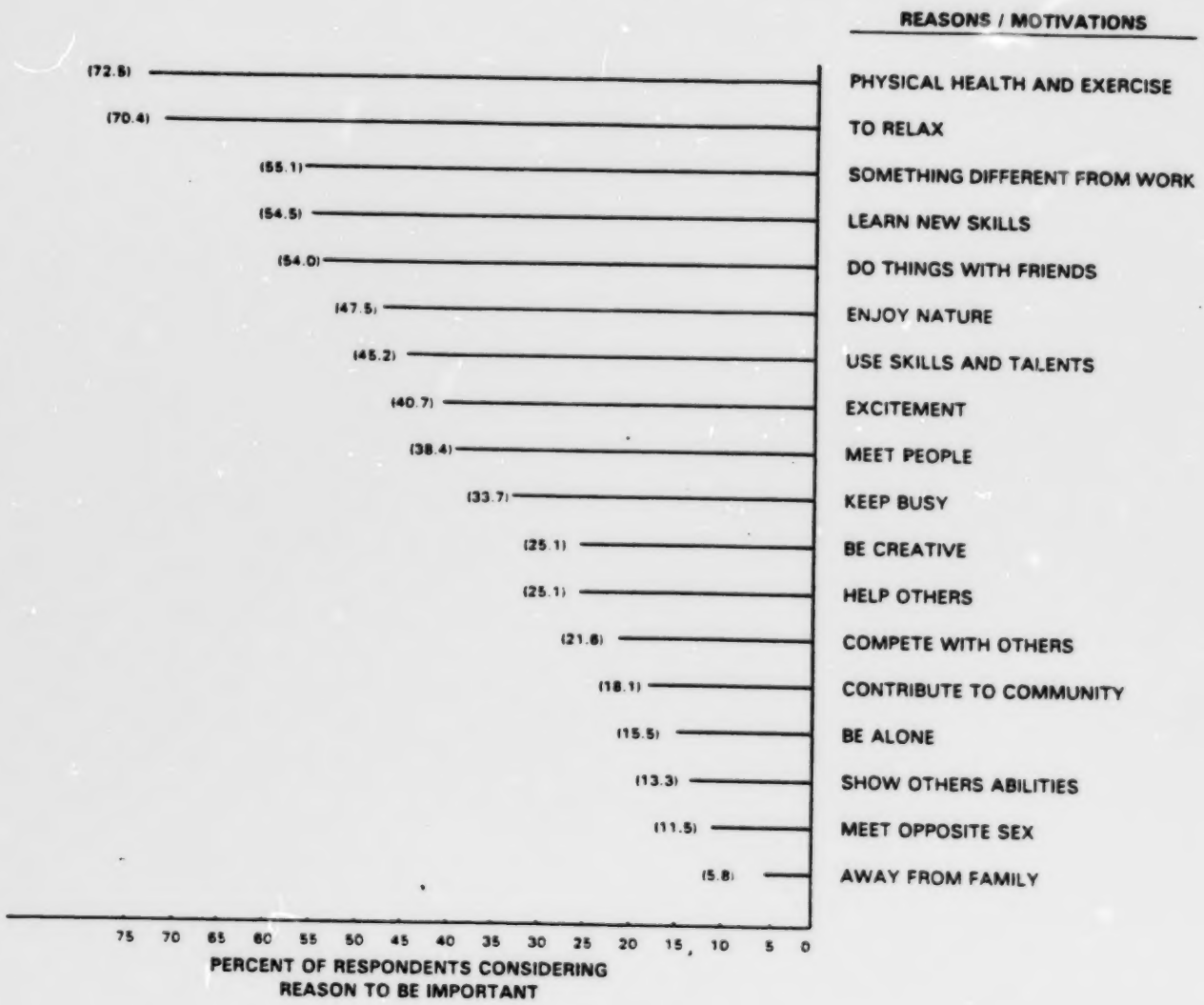
In Figure 1 the ratings for each of the eighteen reasons are depicted graphically.

- The two reasons which ranked highest and were important to over two-thirds of the respondents were physical health and exercise (72.5%) and relaxation (70.4%).

- Approximately one-half of the respondents thought the following reasons were important: to do something different from work (55.1%); to do things with friends (54.0%); and to learn new skills (54.5%).

- The data indicates that motivations for participation differ according to the type of activities.

FIGURE 1
IMPORTANCE OF REASONS FOR STARTING PARTICIPATION IN LEISURE ACTIVITIES


REASONS / MOTIVATIONS
(72.8) PHYSICAL HEALTH AND EXERCISE
(70.4) TO RELAX
(55.1) SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM WORK
(54.5) LEARN NEW SKILLS
(54.0) DO THINGS WITH FRIENDS
(47.5) ENJOY NATURE
(45.2) USE SKILLS AND TALENTS
(40.7) EXCITEMENT
(38.4) MEET PEOPLE
(33.7) KEEP BUSY
(25.1) BE CREATIVE
(25.1) HELP OTHERS
(21.8) COMPETE WITH OTHERS
(18.1) CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY
(15.5) BE ALONE
(13.3) SHOW OTHERS ABILITIES
(11.5) MEET OPPOSITE SEX
(5.8) AWAY FROM FAMILY
75 70 65 60 55 50 45 40 35 30 25 20 15 10 5 0
PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS CONSIDERING REASON TO BE IMPORTANT

Respondents were also provided with the opportunity to specify an additional reason for starting or re-starting to participate in an activity over the previous year. The reported reasons are listed in Table 8, and rank-ordered according to the frequency of mention by the household respondents.

Table 8

Other Reasons Specified For Starting or Re-starting to Participate in an Activity

Other Reasons (Ranked)	Frequency N	%
1. To Be With Children	57	1.5
2. Enjoyment, Fun	49	1.2
3. Psychological Well-being	28	.7
4. Miscellaneous/Unique	19	.5
5. Slimming, Weight Contol	7	.2
6. Spiritual Growth	6	.2
7. Travel	5	.1
8. To Be Outdoors	4	.1
9. To Save Money	3	.1

Section 2, Question 3(c) - Approximately how much money did you spend on the leisure time activity you started or re-started to participate in over the past twelve months?

Table 9

Respondents' Annual Expenditures on Activity Started in the Past Year[1]

Amount Spent $	Type of Expenditure: Equipment Costs N	%	Travel Costs N	%	Membership/ Entrance Fees N	%	Other Costs N	%
No Cost*	15	.9	27	1.8	37	2.5	41	3.6
1-49	596	37.4	699	45.7	753	51.1	572	49.7
50-99	315	19.7	271	17.7	268	18.2	176	15.3
100-249	305	19.1	231	15.1	274	18.6	185	16.1
250-499	147	9.2	133	8.7	104	7.1	88	7.6
500+	215	13.5	169	11.0	39	2.6	89	7.7
Mult. resp.	2	.1						
TOTAL	1595	100.0	1530	100.0	1475	100.0	1151	100.0

* Based on personal comments recorded in the questionnaire by respondents.

1 Percentages are based on the number of respondents starting a new activity.

- o In general, expenditures in each of these categories were less than one hundred dollars for the majority of respondents.

- o Equipment costs appeared to be the greatest expenditure with 41.8% of the respondents exceeding one hundred dollars for equipment.

- o Approximately one-third of the respondents spent more than one hundred dollars on travel (34.8%), and other diverse costs (31.4%).

2.3 Activities Discontinued in the Previous Year

Section 2, Question 4(a) - Is there any leisure time activity that you used to participate in regularly during the last few years, but have not participated in during the last twelve months?

Table 10

Proportion of Respondents Stopping Participation
In a Leisure Activity During the Past Year

Stopped an Activity	Frequency N	%
Yes	1812	46.2
No	1756	44.8
No Response	353	9.0
Total	3921	100.0

The specific activities in which respondents stopped participating and the proportion of respondents who discontinued each of the activities are summarized in Table 11. The column of percentage figures indicates frequencies as a proportion of the sub-sample which had actually discontinued an activity in the past year. The activities are rank-ordered according to the proportion of the sample stopping an activity in the past year.

Table 11

Proportion of Respondents
Stopping Participation in Specific
Leisure Activities in the Previous Year

Leisure Activities (Ranked)	N	Proportion Of Sample Stopping An Activity %
1. Curling	170	9.5
2. Downhill Skiing	150	8.4
3. Racquetball, Squash	94	5.2
4. Bowling	83	4.6
5. Baseball	81	4.5
6. Swimming	74	4.1
7. Hunting, Shooting	72	4.0
8. Ice Hockey	72	4.0
9. Physical Fitness, Aerobics	54	3.0
10. Golf	53	3.0
11. Camping	50	2.8
12. Tennis	44	2.5
13. Jogging, Running	43	2.4
14. Fishing	42	2.3
15. Cross Country Skiing	40	2.2
16. Ice Skating	38	2.1
17. Water Sports	37	2.1
18. Horse Riding, Racing	35	2.0
19. Dance, Ballet, Jazz	34	1.9
20. Badminton	31	1.7
21. Volleyball	31	1.7
22. Soccer	28	1.6

Table 11 (Continued)

Leisure Activities (Ranked)		N	Proportion Of Sample Stopping An Activity %
23.	Other Out-Of-Home Activities	27	1.5
24.	Backpacking, Mountain Climbing	26	1.4
25.	Bicycling	26	1.4
26.	Football, Rugby	26	1.4
27.	Hiking	24	1.3
28.	Basketball	24	1.3
29.	Weight Lifting, Body Building	21	1.2
30.	Canoeing, Rowing, Kayaking	21	1.2
31.	Motorcycling, Dirt Biking	20	1.1
32.	Martial Arts	20	1.1
33.	Snowmobiling	20	1.1
34.	Creative Activities	19	1.1

Section 2, Question 4(b) - Based on the activity you stopped participating in, how important are each of the fifteen reasons listed?

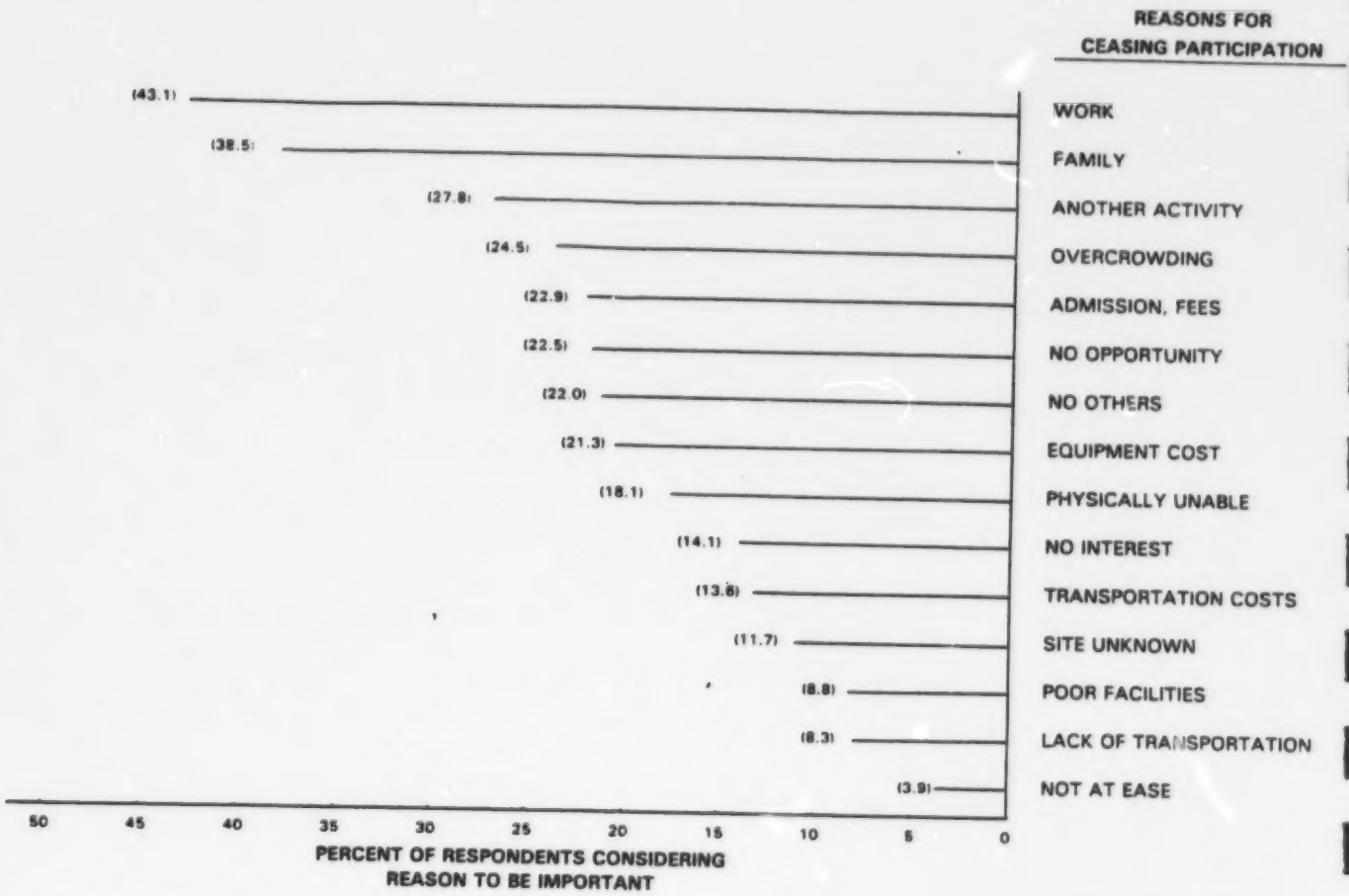
In Figure 2 the ratings for each of the fifteen reasons are depicted graphically.

- Forty-three percent of the respondents indicated work commitments were very or extremely important, while thirty-eight percent identified the importance of family commitments.

- Approximately one-quarter of the respondents indicated that taking up another activity (27.8%) or the presence of overcrowded facilities (24.5%) were important factors for stopping participation.

- The data indicates that reasons for non-participation may vary somewhat depending on the type of activity.

FIGURE 2
IMPORTANCE OF REASONS FOR CEASING PARTICIPATION IN LEISURE ACTIVITIES



Respondents were also provided with the opportunity to specify an additional reason for ceasing participation in an activity over the previous year. The reported reasons are listed in Table 12 and rank-ordered according to the frequency of mention by the household respondent.

Table 12

Other Reasons For Ceasing Participation In An Activity

Other Reasons (Ranked)		Frequency N	%
1.	Lack of Time	60	1.5
2.	Sold/Lack of Equipment	26	.7
3.	Family Commitments, Pregnancy	18	.5
4.	Lack of Motivation	15	.4
5.	Age	13	.3
6.	Left School, Home	13	.3
7.	Cost of Program	10	.3
8.	Difficult Logistics	10	.3
9.	School Commitments	9	.2
10.	Program Cancelled, End of Season	9	.2
11.	Poor Atmosphere (Social and Smoke)	9	.2
12.	Weather	8	.2
13.	Too Competitive	8	.2
14.	Government Policy	4	.1
15.	Getting organized	2	.1

2.4 Membership in Private Clubs

Section 2, Question 5(a) - Do you belong to a private recreation-oriented club?

Table 13

Proportion of Respondents Indicating Membership and No Membership in a Private Club

Club Membership	Frequency N	Frequency %
Yes	897	22.9
No	2838	72.4
No Response	186	4.7
TOTAL	3921	100.0

Those respondents who reported that they were members of a private recreation-oriented club were asked to indicate the number of clubs they belonged to. The responses are tabulated in Table 14.

Table 14

Proportion of Respondents Belonging to a Specific Number of Private Clubs[1]

Number of Clubs	Frequency N	Frequency %
1	554	69.0
2	176	21.9
3	50	6.2
4	16	2.0
5 or more	7	.8
TOTAL	803	100.0

1 Percentages are based on the number of respondents belonging to a private club.

Section 2, Question 5(b) - How much money have you spent during the last twelve months on club dues, fees and/or charges?

Table 15

Proportion of Respondents
Reporting Various Annual Costs
for Private Club Memberships[1]

Club Costs $	Frequency N	%
1 to 49	159	19.0
50 to 100	151	18.1
101 to 200	137	16.4
201 to 300	101	12.1
301 to 400	53	6.3
401 to 500	56	6.7
501 to 750	41	4.9
751 to 1000	47	5.7
1000 to 1500	25	3.0
1501 and over	47	5.6
Lifetime memberships	16	1.9
Multiple response	2	.2
TOTAL	835	100.0

1 Percentages are based on the number of respondents belonging to a private club.

2.5 Volunteer Participation

Section 2, Question 6(a) - Did you work as a volunteer in the past twelve months?

Table 16

Proportion of Respondents
Reporting Participation or Non-Participation
in Volunteer Work

Volunteer Participation	Frequency N	%
Yes	1498	38.2
No	2170	55.3
No Response	253	6.5
TOTAL	3921	100.0

Section 2, Question 6(b) - How many hours in an average week do you spend doing volunteer work?

Those respondents who reported that they had worked as a volunteer in the previous twelve months were asked to indicate the number of hours they spent doing volunteer work in an average week. The responses are tabulated in Table 17.

Table 17

Time Spent Doing
Volunteer Work in an Average Week[1]

Hours Per Week	Frequency N	%
1 - 5	872	58.8
6 - 10	302	20.4
11 - 15	109	7.4
More than 15	197	13.3
Mult. Resp.	2	.1
Total	1482	100.0

1 Percentages are based on the number of respondents who volunteer.

2.6 Respondents' Opinions

Section 3, Question 1 - Do you feel it is important that Alberta's amateur athletes win medals in interprovincial, and national competitions?

Table 18

Respondents' Opinions About Alberta's Amateur Athletes Winning Medals in Competitions

Winning Medals	Frequency N	%
Not Important	512	13.1
Somewhat Important	1265	32.3
Important	1639	41.8
Undecided/No Opinion	387	9.9
Mult. Resp./No Answer	118	3.0
TOTAL	3921	100.0

Section 3, Question 2 - Do you feel there is too much emphasis on competition in organized sports for children?

Table 19

Respondents' Attitudes About Competition in Organized Sports for Children

Children's Competition	Frequency N	%
Not enough emphasis	293	7.5
Enough emphasis	1422	36.3
Too much emphasis	1672	42.6
Undecided/No Opinion	396	10.1
Mult. Resp./No Answer	138	3.5
TOTAL	3921	100.0

Section 3, Question 3 - Have you personally visited an Alberta Provincial Park during the last three years?

Table 20

Proportions of Respondents Visiting/Not Visiting Alberta Provincial Parks in the Past Three Years

Park Visit	Frequency N	%
Yes	3063	78.1
No	572	14.6
Don't Know/Don't Remember	180	4.6
Mult. Resp./No Answer	106	2.7
TOTAL	3921	100.0

Section 3, Question 4 - How important is it to you that Alberta Recreation and Parks develop and maintain three different types of recreation areas?

Table 21

Opinions About the Role of Alberta Recreation and Parks

Role	Very Important		Somewhat Important		Not at All Important		Mult. Response/ No Answer	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1. Protect areas of historical and natural interest	3126	79.7	615	15.7	58	1.5	122	3.1
2. Provide outdoor recreation opportunities	2924	74.6	739	18.8	103	2.6	155	3.9
3. Provide "outdoor experience" opportunities	2539	64.8	1012	25.8	196	5.0	174	4.4

Section 3, Question 5 - Should the following activities and services be permitted in Provincial Parks?

Table 22

Respondents' Opinions About
Activities and Services in Provincial Parks

Activity/Service (Ranked)	Frequency					
	Yes		No		Mult. resp./ No Answer	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
1. Boat and canoe rentals	3473	88.6	306	7.8	142	3.7
2. Permit sport fishing	3161	80.6	592	15.1	170	4.3
3. Horse rentals	3115	79.4	631	16.1	175	4.5
4. Services (laundromats, stores, etc.)	2605	66.4	1176	30.0	140	3.6
5. Hotels and motels	1573	40.1	2166	55.2	189	4.7
6. Cottage subdivisions	1128	28.8	2556	65.2	237	6.1
7. Hunting	374	9.5	3336	85.1	211	5.4

- There appears to be general support for three activities or services in Provincial Parks, including boat and canoe rentals (88.6%), sport fishing (80.6%), and horse rentals (79.4%).

2.7 Socio-Economic and Demographic Information about Respondents and Households

2.7.1 Residence Characteristics

Section 1A, Question 1 - Do you live in a town/city or on a farm/acreage?

Table 23

Proportions of Respondents

Living in Urban or Rural Locations

Location	Frequency N	%
Town or city	3326	84.8
Farm or acreage	378	9.6
Multiple response	170	4.3
No Answer	47	1.2
TOTAL	3921	100.0

Table 24 identifies the proportion of respondents living in various regions of the province. The data are rank-ordered according to the frequencies in each region. Just one-half of the respondents (54.4%) were from the two major urban centres, Calgary and Edmonton.

Table 24

Location of Respondent Households:
Provincial Regions

Regions (Rank-Ordered)	Frequency N	%
1. Calgary	1231	31.4
2. Edmonton	900	23.0
3. Lethbridge	290	7.4
4. Stony Plain	255	6.5
5. Red Deer	250	6.4
6. Medicine Hat	160	4.1
7. Leduc	156	4.0
8. Grande Prairie	95	2.4
9. Wainwright	71	1.8
10. St. Paul	63	1.6
11. Edson	59	1.5
12. Three Hills	54	1.4
13. Barrhead	52	1.3
14. Peace River	53	1.3
15. Stettler	48	1.2
16. Vegreville	45	1.1
17. Fort McMurray	42	1.1
18. High Prairie	10	0.3
Not Known	87	2.2
Total	3921	100.00

Section 1A, Question 4 - How long have you lived in Alberta?

Table 25

Length of Residence in Alberta

Length of Time	Frequency N	%
Less than 6 months	5	.1
6 months to 1 year	8	.2
1 to 2 years	91	2.3
3 to 5 years	358	9.1
6 to 10 years	422	10.8
11 or more years	2994	76.4
Multiple response	4	.1
No answer	38	1.0
Total	3920	100.00

2.7.2. Household Characteristics

Section 1A, Question 2 - What situation best describes your household?

Table 26

Respondents' Type of Household

Household Type (Ranked)	Frequency N	%
1. Couple with children	1810	46.2
2. Couple with no children	957	24.4
3. Single person	530	13.5
4. Two or more related adults	210	5.4
5. Two or more unrelated adults	151	3.9
6. Single parent family	145	3.7
7. Other	75	1.9
Mult.-response	12	.3
No answer	31	.8
Total	3921	100.0

Table 27 lists the other household categories identified by respondents and the frequency of these responses in rank-order.

Table 27
Other Types of Households

Household Types (Ranked)	Frequency N	%
1. Extended family	30	.8
2. Widow/Pensioner	22	.6
3. Family + friends	12	.3
4. Couple + single person	8	.2
5. Foster/boarding situation	6	.2

Section 1A, Question 3 - How many people are in your household?

Table 28

Number of Household Members

Number of Persons	Frequency N	%
1	554	14.1
2	1243	31.7
3	706	18.0
4	847	21.6
5	367	9.4
6	100	2.5
7	31	.8
Greater than 7	25	.6
No answer	50	1.3
Total	3923	100.0

In Table 29, there is a breakdown of the number of household members in each of the six age categories.

Table 29

Number and Age of Person(s)
in Respondents' Households

Number in Household	Age (years)											
	Under 6		6 - 17		18 - 29		30 - 49		50 - 64		Over 64	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
None	3074	78.4	2667	68.0	2225	56.7	1930	49.2	3015	76.9	3431	87.4
1	514	13.1	558	14.2	872	22.2	728	18.6	422	10.8	308	7.8
2	292	7.4	516	13.2	714	18.2	1244	31.7	481	12.3	184	4.7
3	37	.9	143	3.6	76	1.9	18	.5	3	.1	3	.1
4	4	.1	31	.8	30	.8	1	.0				
5			5	.1	2	.1						
6			1	.0	0	.0						
7					1	.0						
8					1	.0						

2.7.3. Socio - Demographic Characteristics

Section 2, Question 1 - What is your sex?

Table 30

Respondents' Sex

Sex	Frequency N	%
Male	2535	64.7
Female	1333	34.0
Multiple response	25	.6
No answer	28	.7
Total	3921	100.00

How old are you?

Table 31

Respondents' Age Category

Age Category (years)	Frequency N	%
Under 25	377	9.6
25 to 34	1189	30.3
35 to 44	863	22.0
45 to 64	999	25.5
65 or older	397	10.1
No answer	96	2.4
Total	3921	100.00

What is your marital status?

Table 32

Respondents' Marital Status

Marital Status	Frequency N	%
Married	2726	69.5
Single	750	19.1
Other	396	10.1
Multiple response	7	.2
No answer	42	1.1
Total	3921	100.00

Section 4, Question 1 - What is the highest level of education you have attained?

Table 33

Respondents' Educational Level

Educational Level	Frequency N	%
Elementary school	60	1.5
Junior high school	345	8.8
Attended/completed senior high	1107	28.2
Attended completed Tech. or Voc.	922	23.5
Attended/completed university	1085	27.7
Other	118	3.0
Multiple response	197	5.0
No answer	87	2.2
Total	3921	100.00

Table 34 lists the other levels of education identified by respondents and the frequency of these responses in rank-order.

Table 34

Other Levels of Education

Education (Ranked)		Frequency N	%
1.	Completed college	55	1.4
2.	Currently in school	23	.6
3.	Various specialties	14	.4
4.	Foreign, private education	12	.3
5.	University certificate	8	.2
6.	Apprenticeship	8	.2
7.	Armed forces training	5	.1
8.	No education	1	.0
9.	Teachers' Certificate	1	.0

Section 4, Question 2(a) - How many people from your household received an income during the past twelve months?

Table 35

Number of Income Earners
In Respondents' Households

Number	Frequency N	%
0	9	.2
1	1265	32.3
2	1841	47.0
3	338	8.6
4	133	3.4
5	33	.8
6 or more	17	.3
Multiple response	1	.0
No answer	284	7.2
Total	3921	100.0

Section 4, Question 2(b) - Approximately, what was the total amount of income that you and members of your household received during the past twelve months?

Table 36

Total Household Income

Income Level $	Frequency N	%
Less than 10,000	312	8.0
10,000 to 20,000	676	17.2
20,001 to 30,000	711	18.1
30,001 to 40,000	683	17.4
40,001 to 50,000	476	12.1
50,001 to 60,000	291	7.4
60,001 to 70,000	179	4.6
70,000 or over	257	6.6
Multiple Response	26	.7
No answer	310	7.9
Total	3921	100.00

2.8 Respondents' Comments

The survey provided space at the end of the questionnaire to allow respondents to submit spontaneous comments. The content of these comments was analyzed and grouped into general categories. Table 36 presents a rank-ordering of these comment categories and the frequencies with which each was mentioned.

Table 37

Respondents' Comments[1]

Comment Categories (Ranked)		Frequency N	%
1.	Suggestions for improving Provincial Parks	124	20.2
2.	Praising parks	55	8.9
3.	Praising survey	46	7.5
4.	Critical of land use policies	44	7.2
5.	Critical of survey	44	7.1
6.	Comments about other recreation/parks systems	39	6.3
7.	Personal barriers prevent participation	28	4.5
8.	General government spending suggestions	26	4.2
9.	Enjoy recreation activities	24	3.9
10.	Supply equal access, opportunities	22	3.6
11.	Support physical fitness activities	21	3.4
12.	Fees too high	14	2.3
13.	Request survey results	13	2.1
14.	Poor outdoor facilities	12	2.0
15.	Good outdoor recreation facilities	10	1.6
16.	Promote amateur sports	9	1.5
17.	Critical of childrens's competition	7	1.1
18.	Age prevents participation	7	1.1
19.	More local parks	6	1.0
20.	Praise staff	5	.8
21.	Promote lake, river use	5	.8
22.	Curious about survey	3	.5
23.	Oppose recreation	3	.5
24.	Encourage volunteers	1	.2
25.	Other	47	7.6
Total		615	100.00

1 Percentages are based on the number of comments contributed by respondents.